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Report of the Security Council

Prevention of armed conflict

Identical letters dated 6 October 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I would like to refer to resolution 1889 (2009) that was adopted by the Security Council on 5 October 2009 on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security.

Malta supports the overall thrust of resolution 1889 (2009). At the same time, Malta would like to register its reservation on that part of paragraph 10 of the resolution relating to "health services, including sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights".

Malta maintains that any position taken or recommendation regarding women's empowerment and gender equality should not in any way create an obligation on any party to consider abortion as a legitimate form of reproductive health rights, services or commodities. Any discussion of rights and services in connection with reproductive health cannot take place outside the framework of one of the most fundamental of human rights — the right to life. Malta strongly believes that the right to life extends to the unborn child from the moment of conception, and that therefore the use of abortion as a means of resolving health or social problems is a denial of that right.

Malta therefore disassociates itself from and considers invalid all statements or decisions which use references to sexual and reproductive health, directly or indirectly, to impose obligations on anyone to accept abortion as a right, service or commodity that may exist outside the ambit of national legislation. It is also the understanding of my delegation that any future reference to Security Council resolution 1889 (2009) will also reflect the reservations outlined above.

I would be grateful if you would have this letter distributed as a document of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly under agenda items 9 and 12, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saviour F. **Borg**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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